



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

P.O. Box 450
Richland, Washington 99352

02-OSR-0481

Mr. R. F. Naventi, Project Manager
Bechtel National, Inc.
3000 George Washington Way
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Naventi:

CONTRACT NO. DE-AC27-01RV14136 – DISAPPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR EXTENSION
TO RESPOND TO FINDINGS ASSOCIATED WITH INSPECTION REPORT IR-02-008

Reference: BNI letter from R. F. Naventi to R. J. Schepens, ORP, "Request for Extension to
Submit Response to Inspection Report IR-02-008 – On-Location Inspection Report
for the Period May 24-July 16, 2002, Including an Assessment of Contractor
Readiness to Perform Partial Construction Authorization Activities," CNN: 041466,
dated September 23, 2002.

The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (ORP) has reviewed the above referenced Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) request for extension to respond to Findings associated with Inspection Report IR-02-008. This request is disapproved. BNI is requested, as soon as possible, to provide a response to the Findings. Furthermore, BNI should take actions to ensure future requests for responses to Findings are completed in the time requested.

The ORP conducted an exit meeting for Inspection Report IR-02-008 on July 16, 2002. During this meeting the Findings were clearly discussed. The inspection report was issued on August 26, 2002, and the 30-day response time started when the report was issued. As a result, we find BNI had ample time to formulate a response to the Findings identified. Also, your justification for extension did not raise extenuating circumstances to justify the need for the delay. This request, extensions requested earlier, and a number of ORP rejected responses, indicate that BNI management needs to assign higher priority and attention to addressing ORP inspection Findings.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may call Robert C. Barr, Office of Safety Regulation, (509) 376-7851.

Sincerely

OSR:JWM

Roy J. Schepens
Manager